



QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES...

BRIDGET Jones star **Renee Zellweger** (right) has managed to rebuild a friendship with ex-lover **Jack White**.

She said of the **White Stripes** frontman: "Life doesn't always go the way you planned but Jack and I are close again." Let's hope he's no **Daniel Cleaver**.



OSCAR-winning actress **Nicole Kidman** (right) has taken up cooking lessons – to remind her to eat.

A friend of the star revealed: "Nicole is so busy she often forgets to eat so she decided to get more inspired by food. She's learning how to bake and everything." Sounds a bit **Stepfordesque** to us.



PARIS Hilton's mum is trying to turn her daughter into a highbrow star – by getting her onto the cover of US hard-hitting titles **Newsweek** and **Time**. Strangely both publications have decided to turn down the scantily-clad heiress...

PAMMIE ARE



Picture: GOFFINE.COM

Kate's big roll

ISN'T it difficult to accessorise, girls? Is it sparkly shoes, chandelier earrings – or a packet of tobacco? It's the latter if you're **Kate Winslet** hosting **Saturday Night Live** in New York. But it's nice she's still a game girl, despite hitting the big time. Smokin'.



IF you're chavvy and you know it clap your hands... around **Jennifer Ellison** if you're her boyfriend **Tony Richardson**. Tone couldn't keep his hands off the gorgeous Chicago star as they partied at the Embassy club on Saturday night. And while their constant PDAs might have been too much for other cynical club-goers, we're pleased to see the lovers going strong after all their troubles. And we, like, really mean that.

Geri has a Max factor



Pictures: NIGGS-KATIE/EAGLE

WELCOME to Planet **Geri Halliwell**.

These days, everybody else seems to revolve around her.

Take **Max Beesley**. The actor was reduced to being a stooge for a woman most famous for her ye-yo weight.

She got her pal to try to head off the paparazzi during a night out – yet she didn't mind when they finally got their snaps.



Picture: Z. TOMASZEWSKI/WENN

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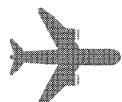
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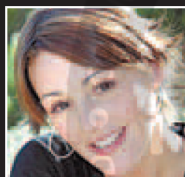


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STAR MUSIC

Express Star Charts



SOAPER STAR: Suranne

SURANNE Jones proves she's Streets ahead of everyone in soapland by picking up best actress gong at the National Television Awards. It was a double success for Corrie as Sam Aston picked up the newcomer gong for his role as Chesney Brown. Meanwhile Matt Lucas and David Walliams won best comedy award for Little Britain.

Our **OK! Celebrity Chart** is based on stars' coverage in Express newspapers - your Daily Star, our sister papers the Daily Express and Sunday Express - and **OK!** Britain's best celebrity magazine. It's THE guide to who's hot and who's not that's got everyone talking.

TOP 40 ALBUMS



- 1 (1) **GREATEST HITS** Robbie Williams
- 2 (2) **10 YEARS OF HITS** Ronan Keating
- 3 (3) **STARDUST - THE GREAT AMERICAN - VOL III** Rod Stewart
- 4 (4) **SONGS ABOUT JANE** Maroon 5
- 5 (5) **SCISSOR SISTERS** Scissor Sisters
- 6 (-) **BEST OF** Def Leppard
- 7 (-) **SOMETHING'S GOING ON** Cliff Richard
- 8 (-) **ONCE MORE WITH FEELING - SINGLES** Placebo
- 9 (8) **AMERICAN IDIOT** Green Day
- 10 (-) **AMORE MUSICA** Russell Watson
- 11 (-) **GOLDDIGGAS HEADNODDERS & PHOLK SONGS** Beautiful South
- 12 (6) **WELCOME TO MY WORLD** Daniel O'Donnell
- 13 (22) **FINAL STRAW** Snow Patrol
- 14 (12) **CONFESSIONS** Usher
- 15 (13) **UNWRITTEN** Natasha Bedingfield
- 16 (15) **HOPES AND FEARS** Keane
- 17 (11) **THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION** Olivia Newton-John
- 18 (18) **CALL OFF THE SEARCH** Katie Melua
- 19 (9) **MIND BODY & SOUL** Joss Stone
- 20 (-) **ON FIRE - LIVE AT THE BOWL** Queen
- 21 (-) **LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING - THE ESSENTIAL** Michael Ball
- 22 (7) **AROUND THE SUN** REM
- 23 (-) **THE STORY SO FAR - THE VERY BEST OF** Rod Stewart
- 24 (-) **REMIXES 81-04** Depeche Mode
- 25 (10) **MIRACLE** Celine Dion
- 26 (16) **SECOND NATURE** Katherine Jenkins
- 27 (19) **THE BEST OF** Groove Armada
- 28 (21) **KASABIAN** Kasabian
- 29 (14) **BAT OUT OF HELL - LIVE** Meat Loaf
- 30 (34) **FRANZ FERDINAND** Franz Ferdinand
- 31 (27) **ANASTACIA** Anastacia
- 32 (26) **OUT OF NOTHING** Embrace
- 33 (29) **WHO KILLED THE ZUTONS** Zutons
- 34 (-) **DEAR HEATHER** Leonard Cohen
- 35 (30) **THE BEST OF** Talking Heads
- 36 (-) **LIVETWICE** Darius
- 37 (33) **UNDER MY SKIN** Avril Lavigne
- 38 (23) **TOM JONES & JOOLS HOLLAND** Tom Jones & Jools Holland
- 39 (36) **GREATEST HITS** Goldie Lookin' Chain
- 40 (28) **UP ALL NIGHT** Razorlight

THE OK! CELEBRITY CHART

- 1) **THE MCFADDENS:** Brian and Kerry's marriage split takes on more plot twists than a soap.
- 2) **BILLIE PIPER AND CHRIS EVANS:** The oddest couple in showbiz are said to be giving their marriage another go.
- 3) **SURANNE JONES:** Corrie beauty Suranne, who plays feisty Karen McDonald, scoops the coveted best actress gong at the National TV Awards.
- 4) **SAM ASTON:** At just 11, little Sam - aka Chesney Brown - becomes the youngest ever winner of a National TV award, bagging the newcomer gong.
- 5) **MATT LUCAS AND DAVID WALLIAMS:** The brilliant Little Britain duo get recognition and win the best comedy honours.



LAUGHS: David Walliams

- 6) **KYLIE MINOQUE:** Ex-lover James Gooding is poised to spill the beans on the Aussie babe in I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!
- 7) **VICTORIA BECKHAM:** Posh goes into overdrive to promote her new clothing range and reveals she's set to buy a new Chelsea home with David.
- 8) **ROBBIE WILLIAMS:** From now on he'll be entertaining in his new Sussex manor.
- 9) **SIMON COWELL:** Mr Nasty meets his match in X Factor judges Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh.
- 10) **CAROL VORDERMAN:** Carol is the second celeb to be booted out of Strictly Come Dancing.

TOP 40 SINGLES



- 1 (-) **WONDERFUL** Ja Rule ft R Kelly
- 2 (1) **CALL ON ME** Eric Prydz
- 3 (-) **NOTHING HURTS LIKE LOVE** Daniel Bedingfield
- 4 (-) **STOLEN** Jay Sean
- 5 (4) **MY NECK MY BACK (LICK IT)** Khia
- 6 (3) **MILLIONAIRE** Kelis
- 7 (-) **YOU WON'T FORGET ABOUT ME** Dannii Minogue vs Flower Power
- 8 (5) **I BELIEVE MY HEART** Duncan James
- 9 (-) **WHAT BECAME OF THE LIKELY LADS** Libertines
- 10 (6) **HAPPY PEOPLE** R Kelly
- 11 (-) **PUMP IT UP** Danzel
- 12 (-) **LOCK UP YA DAUGHTERS** Noise Next Door
- 13 (10) **FLASHDANCE** Deep Dish
- 14 (-) **YOUR MOTHER'S GOT A PENIS** Goldie Lookin' Chain
- 15 (7) **ENJOY THE SILENCE 04** Depeche Mode
- 16 (-) **THE BUCKET** Kings of Leon
- 17 (9) **RADIO** Robbie Williams
- 18 (12) **COME GET SOME** Rooster
- 19 (-) **FREAKIN' OUT** Graham Coxon
- 20 (11) **MORE MORE MORE** Rachel Stevens
- 21 (13) **DO YOU KNOW (I GO CRAZY)** Angel City
- 22 (2) **THE LOVE OF RICHARD NIXON** Manic Street Preachers
- 23 (22) **PIECES OF ME** Ashlee Simpson
- 24 (8) **KINDA LOVE** Darius
- 25 (-) **OPEN ARMS** Tina Turner
- 26 (-) **HELICOPTER** Bloc Party
- 27 (16) **AFRODISIAC** Brandy
- 28 (17) **WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF** Lucie Silvas
- 29 (14) **SUNSHINE** Lil' Flip
- 30 (23) **WHATEVER U WANT** Christina Milian ft Joe Budden
- 31 (24) **FREE** Estelle
- 32 (29) **BABY CAKES** 3 Of A Kind
- 33 (21) **KISS ON THE LIPS** Dualers
- 34 (32) **LOVE MACHINE** Girls Aloud
- 35 (25) **MARY** Scissor Sisters
- 36 (-) **STAN BOWLES** Others
- 37 (19) **DROP THE PRESSURE** Mylo
- 38 (37) **PREDICTABLE** Good Charlotte
- 39 (-) **HOW TO BE DEAD** Snow Patrol
- 40 (15) **DON'T EVER THINK (TOO MUCH)** Zutons

Picture: RICHARD YOUNG / REX FEATURES



SOULMATES: Amanda and Chris

AMANDA TO WED BEST PAL

SEXY telly beauty Amanda Holden is planning the perfect wedding with her best pal Chris Hughes. It's two years since her break-up with ex-husband, comedian Les Dennis, 50, became public. Now Amanda, 33, who plays superbitch Mia Bevan in hit drama *Cutting It*, has confessed she is desperate to tie the knot with record boss Chris, 30.

Hints

And she's even picked out the type of ring and dress she wants. Amanda, who called Chris her "soulmate and best pal" earlier this year, drops him helpful hints by leaving catalogues out around their home. The telly beauty admitted: "I'm just

■ by MARIANNA PARTASIDES

waiting expectantly. The Tiffany catalogue is kept out, just for reference." Amanda has known Chris for almost 10 years but they only got together after her split with Les. She said: "He's always been in the background - a close friend. Then he asked me out for dinner. "We started dating properly and now we live together and that's it." Amanda had been married to Les for seven years before things fell apart. She blamed the split on her youth. The star confided her wedding dreams during an interview with Lauren Laverne, host of ITV1's *Orange Playlist* which will be screened this Thursday. She also revealed she fantasises about housewives' favourite Terry Wogan.

Loan will cost you

MORTGAGE regulation beginning today could force small brokers to charge a £100 fee for costs and lead to a loans drought while adjusting to new rules, said Purely Mortgages boss Mark Chilton.

Sting is wor man

ROCK legend Sting is set to become a freeman of Newcastle upon Tyne. The 53-year-old milkman's son from nearby Wallsend - real name Gordon Sumner - joins Sir Bobby Robson on the nomination list.

BUFFY BEAUTY'S A REAL BRUISER



FIGHTS: Actress Sarah

SIZZLING Sarah Michelle Gellar has revealed that playing Buffy the Vampire Slayer meant she couldn't wear skirts for years. The 27-year-old blonde, who played Buffy for eight years, says she had to wear trousers because she was always covered in bruises.

Fight

But since quitting the role, she has gone back to showing off her legs. She explained: "Buffy was exhausting, physically and emotionally. There were at least two fight

■ by DON PRESTON

scenes in every episode. I never wore skirts for years because of all the bruises. "I was very lucky I didn't break anything - just a few cuts and grazes." Gellar, who is married to *Scoby* Doo co-star Freddie Prinze Jr, stars in new horror movie *The Grudge*, a remake of a Japanese hit flick. But she has not ruled out a return as Buffy. She said: "It's not something I'm actively pursuing, but you never know!"

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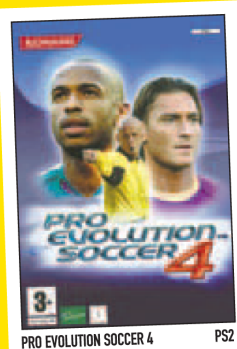


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TOUCHY SUBJECT

TOAST of the urban music scene **Estelle** is hiding a secret pop past. The rapper featured on the second single from **Lisa Scott-Lee's** brothers, **3SL**, called **Touch Me, Tease Me**. An insider said: "It wasn't exactly a big hit but Estelle was trying to break into music." Lisa, 27, is using her model brother, **Ant**, in her new video. **Get It On.**



HUNK SADDLES UP BRAD'S NAG FOR VID

Nice Troy Darius

SCOTTISH pop stallion Darius plans to ride the horse Brad Pitt used in Troy in an epic new video.

The singer wants the promo for the title track of his new album, **Live Twice**, to be a tribute to his dying father.

Darius, 24, wrote the track for his surgeon dad, Booth, while he was in hospital having cancer treatment.

Sadly the doctors have said their is nothing more they can do to help him.

A source told me: "The director has arranged for Darius to ride the horse Brad Pitt did in **Troy** for the video to **Live Twice**."

"It's going to be a grand production and something for everyone to feel proud of."

"The song is very personal to Darius so he wants to put his all into the filming. The team fly out to Malaga

EXCLUSIVE

in Spain tomorrow." While going all-out for the follow-up to recent hit **Kinda Love**, Darius has won over a string of celebrity fans, including fellow Scot and **Franz Ferdinand** frontman, **Alex Kapranos**.

My source explained: "Darius was filming the

Paul O'Grady show at the same time **Franz Ferdinand** were in the ITV building recording the **Frank Skinner** Show.

Chat

"They bumped into each other in the corridor and Alex stopped to introduce himself to Darius and ask him how he was doing."

"They had a little chat about what they were both up to and wished each

other the best for the future." Perhaps a kilted collaboration is next.

I hear **Glasgow City Council** is keen to sign up both acts to perform during New Year celebrations.



SEXY Jenny Frost gives us a glimpse of her lovely legs as she relaxes by the seaside. Former **Atomic Kitten** Jen, 26, hooked up with **Alesha Dixon** of **Mis-Teeq**, **Denise Van Outen** and **Sadie Frost** to promote customised handbags and limited edition cans of **Diet Coke** to raise funds for charity Shelter.

Dannii's new single

DANNII Minogue bounced back into the singles market last night by revealing she's split from French boyfriend **Jeremy Garamond**.

The **You Won't Forget About Me** popstar, 33, has jetted off to New York for a giddy holiday to take a break from it all.

A source said: "It's very sad. Dannii was taking the Eurostar to Paris every weekend for virtually the past 18 months but things

just came to a natural end. People grow apart and they realised things had changed."

Her spokesman said: "Dannii Minogue and Jeremy Garamond are no longer seeing each other. They are to stay friends."

Good news for all the single men out there at last.



WATCH out for **The Charles Family** as they start their quest for stardom on **BBC1** tomorrow. The West Indian singing siblings are managed by **Jonathan Shalit**, the man who discovered **Charlotte Church** and is now guiding **Jamellea** (left). Since his other act, **Big Brovaz**, have been dropped this lot are on a mission to fill their place in the public's affections.

GOTTA HOT STORY? Call Joe on 0871 872 7090 OR email:

JOE MOTT'S hot

Edited
by KIM
DAWSON



Pictures: FABRIZIO BELLUSCHI/MATRIX



Now that's Cheeky

THE Cheeky Girls have gone a bit slutty – and it suits them.

What would Mama Cheeky think about Monica and Gabriela (left) donning fishnet stockings and silky skimpies at their 23rd birthday

party? The twins took to the Kremlin stage at in Belfast on Saturday, ahead of their Halloween birthday.

Yes, they're from Transylvania and were born on Halloween. Scary. But in those outfits, you still would.

THE Noise Next Door are the first triplets to score a Top 15 hit. **Ed, Craig and Scott Sutton**, 18, saw debut single **Lock Up Your Daughters** chart at No.12 yesterday. An insider said: "After not spending a penny on advertising we're very happy with the result."

GIRLIES SET TO MC-FLY

BUSTED'S management are hoping to recreate the success they've had with **McFly** by launching a group of teen rock girls.

I can reveal that Prestige are grooming girls as young as 14 with guitars and drums to try to rival all-singing and dancing girl groups like the **Sugababes**.

A source told me: "A lot of time and money is being spent on the group, who will play their own instruments like **McFly** and **Busted** do."

"There is a real gap in the market for that kind of band and the team is confident they can be a success."

I'm told the girls will release songs under the name **Lovebugs**. Erm, lovely.

SCISSOR Sisters' Jake Shears began a rendition of **The Time Warp** at a function with **Rocky Horror** show creator **Richard O'Brien** for **Manchester's Wallasey Children's Charity**. Well, if you will **Take Your Mama Out** on a Saturday night...

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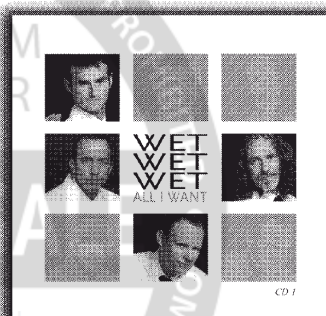
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OUT TODAY

WET WET WET - ALL I WANT

This is the first release from **Wet Wet Wet**, after a six year break. **All I Want** is one of the new tracks from their forthcoming **Greatest Hits** album. Available on 2xCDs, both formats feature extra tracks whilst the maxi CD also includes **Goodnight Girl** live in Newcastle.

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CAGE THE KILLERS

Road death crackdown

KILLER drivers could soon face more years behind bars.

Causing death or serious injury in road crashes should be treated as sternly as manslaughter or grievous bodily harm, say influential MPs.

Members of the Commons transport committee are demanding longer prison terms and higher fines.

They also want more breath-testing, tougher police enforcement of speed limits and the introduction of a completely new offence – causing death or injury by negligent driving.

The penalty for committing this would

by IMOGEN LILLYWHITE

be a higher maximum jail sentence than can be passed under present laws.

A report from the committee says: "Where death or injury is involved, it appears that police and prosecutors take a more lenient view of drivers' behaviour than does the general public."

Belt

Drivers found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving currently face a maximum prison sentence of 14 years.

Those who cause injury to another road user can be sentenced to two years and those found guilty of careless driving face a maximum fine of £2,500.

Meanwhile, the Government is backing a "Belt Up" campaign – for pets.

Animal charities want owners to instal dog seatbelts – which fasten round the back and front legs – or pet carriers which can be securely fastened to seats.

These would protect the animals themselves and stop them causing injury to human passengers in the event of a crash.

£1.6bn school run

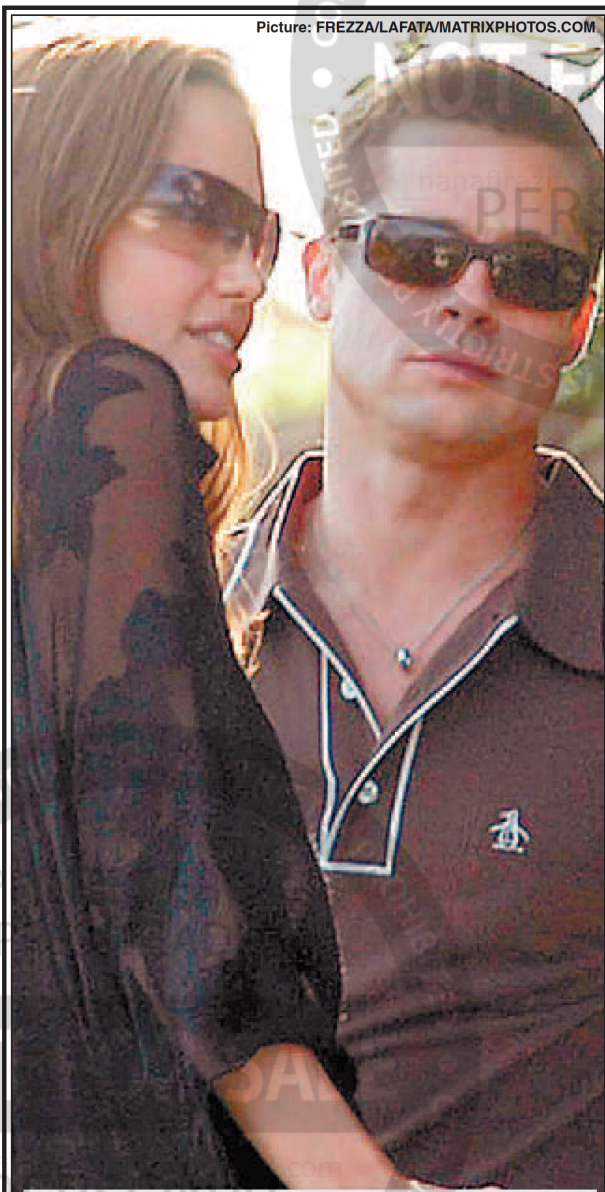
THE daily school run costs British parents £1.66billion a year, it has been revealed.

The figure includes the cost of fuel, crashes and parking and speeding fines.

But an additional £90.4million is spent on

repairing crash damage caused on a school run.

The findings from financial firm Egg also show four million families drive their kids to and from school at an annual cost of more than £400 each – most of which is spent on fuel.



Picture: FREZZA/LAFATA/MATRIXPHOTOS.COM

Brad's in the dark

HOLLYWOOD hunk Brad Pitt was looking shady as he shared an intimate moment with screen siren Angelina Jolie in Italy at the weekend.

But wife Jennifer Aniston needn't worry – the pair are making the movie Mr & Mrs Smith. Jolie, 29, and Pitt, 40, play married assassins hired to kill each other.



SHOCKED: Zeta-Jones

Zeta's house horror

CATHERINE Zeta-Jones is in shock over plans for a huge housing estate next to her £1.5million mansion.

Developers Taylor Woodrow want to build 42 houses near the star's new home in the Welsh seaside village of Mumbles.

Oscar-winner Catherine, 34, and husband Michael Douglas, 60, had the mansion built in her hometown near Swansea for when they visit with their children Dylan, four, and one-year-old Carys.

Target

Now the star's privacy could be wrecked by a development on a caravan park overlooking

Limeslade Bay a few hundred yards away.

Plans for the estate on the council-owned site were recommended for approval last week.

A spokesman for the developers said: "We can't give more details about the site before approval."

Catherine was the target of a kidnap attempt while filming The Legend of Zorro in Mexico.

She has also been at the centre of a US court case after Dawnette Knight was accused of threatening to kill her.

ASDA has cooked up the fiery Fergie Flinger and Wenger pizzas after the food fight between Manchester United and Arsenal. Old Trafford boss Alex Ferguson was hit by a pizza in the tunnel after his side beat Arsene's team 2-0.

Lads love X games

COMPUTER games that show sex and violence are being bought by boys as young as 12, research has revealed.

More than two thirds of youngsters aged between 11 and 14 revealed they had played games with an 18-plus certificate.

Boys aged 13 to 14 were the most likely to have played the games, according to the study by ITV1's Tonight With Trevor McDonald.

The Grand Theft Auto series, which includes sex and violence, was one of the most popular games with lads.

And Manhunt had been played by more than 20% of 13 to 14-year-olds.

DOING A BOMB

A VULCAN bomber has been put on internet auction site ebay for £6,000 by plane buff Brian Bateson, from Blackpool, Lancs.

Peel's final gift

JOHN Peel's vast record collection is set to be given to the nation – just as he wanted.

The legendary disc jockey amassed an unrivalled array of vinyl, CDs and tapes from around the world before dying from a heart attack in Peru last week, aged 65.

Peel's manager, Clive Selwood, confirmed that the broadcaster had held talks about leaving them

by PAUL MALLEY

with the British Library. He said yesterday: "The idea certainly had favour with him."

"We'll just have to see what happens."

Radio 1 DJ Peel was one of the most influential figures in music over the past four decades and helped launch bands including Led Zeppelin, The Smiths and Nirvana.



LEGENDARY: John Peel

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STAR NEWS



Picture: MARTIN CURTIS / REX FEATURES

Heidi 'n shriek

■ SUPERMODEL
Heidi Klum still looks great, despite gearing up in fangs and a scarlet witch outfit for a Hallowe'en bash in New York. But by the looks of things, the German babe has still managed to scare someone out of their skin...

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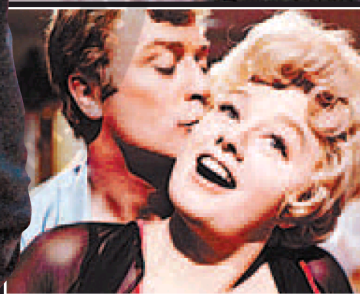
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OI! JUDE'S ALFIE IS A TOP TURKEY



Picture: PACIFICCOASTNEWS.COM

HUNKY Leonardo DiCaprio looks a bit of a nerd with his boyish hairstyle, poncey glasses and blazer and tie. But he's a high-flier in his new film *The Aviator* as eccentric millionaire Howard Hughes. The movie, released next month, also stars Jude Law as Errol Flynn, Cate Blanchett as Katherine Hepburn and Kate Beckinsale as Ava Gardner.



CLASSIC: Michael Caine and Shelley Winters in original *Alfie* and, right, Jude Law in the remake

A lot of people know that you just can't beat Michael Caine

ALFIE has been voted one of the worst film remakes of all time.

Critics have panned Jude Law's performance in the role made famous by Sir Michael Caine.

And film fans agree the updated version is not a patch on the 1966 original.

Alfie was sixth in a worst remakes poll.

Top of the flops was another movie which originally starred Michael Caine. *Get Carter* was rehased with Sylvester Stallone in the lead role.

It relocated the action from Sixties Newcastle to modern-day Seattle - with disastrous

by ELIZABETH JAMES

results. Critics called it "pointless", "useless" and an "incoherent mess".

Alex Chesterman, the founder of DVD rental firm ScreenSelect.co.uk, which carried out the poll, said: "This is an indication that remakes can't compare with films which were classics of their time."

Thriller

"It also proves you just can't beat Michael Caine."

Second was Gus Van Sant's attempt to remake *Psycho* for a new audience.

This year's *Thunderbirds*

movie was third, followed by *Bridget Fonda* thriller *The Assassin* - a remake of the cult film *Nikita*.

Charlie's Angels, starring Cameron Diaz, was fifth.

And new versions of *Planet Of The Apes*, *Starsky And Hutch* and *Cape Fear* also made the top 10.

In 10th was *Ocean's Eleven*, with audiences obviously preferring the Frank Sinatra original to the update starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt.

Mr Chesterman added: "Time after time, remakes fail to sparkle like the originals."

"The rehased productions trade off fond memories of much-loved films."

TOP TEN TURKEYS

- 1 *Get Carter*
- 2 *Psycho*
- 3 *Thunderbirds*
- 4 *The Assassin*
- 5 *Charlie's Angels*
- 6 *Alfie*
- 7 *Planet Of The Apes*
- 8 *Starsky And Hutch*
- 9 *Cape Fear*
- 10 *Ocean's Eleven*

DISP CHKD

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MAKE YOUR "ONE DAY" TODAY WITH THE ONE ACCOUNT



The One account helped Annette and Brian's "One Day" dreams come true today

Childhood sweethearts Annette and Brian Ashdown made their cash stretch much further, after switching their mortgage to the One account.

The couple have used the One account to splash out on family holidays in Spain and Turkey and install a new bathroom and kitchen. It has even helped them put down a deposit on a new car. "It's amazing, the One account has really made our lives so much easier," Annette, 46, says.

The couple decided to switch mortgage after 10 years with a high street lender. "During this time we hardly reduced our mortgage, which was really frustrating. It was time for a change."

Then she heard about the benefits

of the One account.

The One account is a mortgage and bank account rolled into one. It allows homeowners to borrow cash against the value of their home up to pre-agreed limits, and repay it when it suits them. As long as you keep within your agreed borrowing limit and pay the account off by retirement, you can pay more some months and less in others. Any extra cash you use to reduce your mortgage can be borrowed back at a later date, for whatever reason.

Annette says the One account sounded too good to be true. "I kept asking myself, what's the catch? Eventually, I rang them up, and discovered there wasn't a catch, you just have to budget carefully."

The couple pay all their income into the One account, including child benefit and Annette's salary from her job as an IT support analyst. This reduces the outstanding balance and with the interest calculated daily this means they pay less interest on their mortgage. Savings made by financial planning meant they have funded two family holidays in Turkey, one in Spain and one in Cyprus.

And the spending didn't stop there. Annette and Brian have fitted a new bathroom and rebuilt their kitchen. "We also used our One account to put down a deposit on a Honda Civic. We had the cash immediately, which meant we could negotiate 0% finance on the

rest of the car," she says. The One account recently helped them face up to a far greater challenge, when Brian lost his eyesight. "We were a fit and healthy young couple and never worried about insurance, thinking it wouldn't happen to us. But it did happen, and the One account helped cushion the financial blow by giving us the freedom to borrow back earlier overpayments," Annette says.

This gave them a source of emergency cash at a difficult time. Annette and Brian have two sons, Derek, 20, and Ian, 16. "Derek is now at university and the One account is helping us support him. It really has helped our family through everything over the past five years," she says.

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CHARLIE

HE'S BRITAIN'S MOST



CATCHPOLE

SWITCHED-ON TELLY CRITIC

Shame on the luvvies

TO the National TV Awards (Tuesday, ITV1), where the death earlier in the day of broadcasting legend John Peel was marked by... absolutely nothing.

I wouldn't expect Sir Trevor McDonald (half-man, half-autocue) to depart from his script even if it was on fire.

Sir Trevor OOR had far more important tasks to perform.

Such as thanking the firm of shirt-makers who sponsor Jonny Wilkinson "for helping Jonny to be here tonight".

But a few words of tribute to a fellow DJ who helped to shape the musical tastes of four generations would not have come amiss from Chris Tarrant - after he'd finished vaingloriously boasting about the utter brilliance of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?

Couldn't the producers at

least have stuck a caption saying something like "in memory of John Peel" at the end?

Anyway, congratulations to little Sam Aston (Chesney in Coronation Street) for deservedly winning best newcomer award, in the face of heavy-weight competition from Honeysuckle Weeks, Tracy-Ann Oberman and Patsy Kensit (best newcomer, 15 years ago).

To everyone from The Bill (voted most popular drama), which was mysteriously plucked out of the serial drama or soap category, thereby giving Coronation Street virtually a free shot at the title.

And not least, to Jonny Wilkinson (and his shirt-makers) for clinching a brand new award, to be known now and henceforth as Most Popular Sporting Moment Not Shown On BBC1, Channel 4 Or Sky.

(Memo to Chancellor Gordon Brown, who banged on about how the Rugby World Cup victory made everyone proud of Britain: England, Gordon. England).

OFF ROAD:
"There's no reason for a Christmas tree, but I like having one."
Richard Madeley unexpectedly changes direction discussing 4x4s on Richard & Judy.



POINT TAKEN:
Even James Gandolfini and Steve Buscemi get pushed round the schedules in The Sopranos

TV scheduling - is it an art, a science, or do they just stick pins in a board, blindfolded?
ITV1 bows to pleas from critics and viewers to move Harry Hill's TV Burp from its

nonsensical late-night slot...and screens the new series at Saturday teatime.
Channel 4 pads its Monday night line-up with repeats of Without A Trace and Father Ted that push The Sopranos

back to around midnight. And E4 moves this Thursday's final episode of Curb Your Enthusiasm - simply the best US sitcom since Seinfeld - to 12.10am the next day. Madness!

CLANGER OF THE WEEK

STEVE Mullington of Rochdale was among dozens of readers who noticed Dev's red spot, or Bindi, go from the middle of his forehead to the top of his nose and back again during his marriage to Sunita in Monday's Coronation Street. You too could win £50 by sending any gaffes you (ahem) spot to TV Clangers, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN. Use a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope, fax to 0871 4347921 or e-mail charlie.catchpole@dailystar.co.uk

Sunita cops it

SOAP weddings rarely go smoothly. But **Coronation Street's** Sunita Parekh set a new record that's surely unbeatable, dragged out of the ceremony by the police and accused of bigamously marrying four, six or seven husbands (depending on which copper was talking at the time). Janice was sympathetic: "Poor cow. She asked for summat blue and flaming rozzers turn up!" Karen cried: "It was just like an episode of The Bill!" Not really, love. No one was kidnapped, raped or shot

PRODUCER Liza Tarbuck on French And Saunders (Friday, BBC1): "What people want is you titting about in a dog collar, and you falling over and showing your pants." Or to put it another way, being funny.

Waste of a killer idea...

HERE'S the deal. You have to dream up a new drama about murder squad detectives - and it's got to be different. Really different.

Nothing like Morse, Taggart, Rebus, Prime Suspect, Waking The Dead, Cracker, Silent Witness, Midsomer Murders, The Inspector Lynley Mysteries, Messiah or Trial And Retribution.

Something that's never been tried before. Um, how about setting it in the past?

No. Been done. Cadfael, Foyle's

War. Oh damn. Hang on a minute. Got it!

How about if no one is murdered? Instead of setting out to pin some gruesome killing on one of the usual suspects, the cops try to STOP a murder before it happens?

Brilliant! Let's give it a go. And so we have **Murder Prevention** (Five), which is all about a special police unit that keeps suspected killers under surveillance and attempts to nab them in the nick of time.

Ten out of ten for the idea. But not too many marks for the execution, if you'll pardon the expression.

This is made in Britain, but someone has obviously been watching too

many of those US crime series that Five has snapped up lately - like Law And Order, The Shield and CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.

It's all swooping, hand-held camerawork and dizzying jump-cuts.

Maverick

The characters are tissue paper-thin - a shouty boss in a sharp suit, a scruffy maverick who (yes, you've guessed) bends the rules, a feisty babe who looks about 15, a wet-behind-the-ears new boy who went to university and is hot on psychological profiling, and so on. Inevitably, it's filmed almost completely in the dark.

"Any questions?" asked shouty boss, DCI Patrick Taylor (Conor Mullen), after briefing his team about a sex killer who was poised - he was pretty sure - to strangle a neighbour while she was jogging.

Yes, guv. Why do we have to work in an old hanger lit by 30-watt bulbs? Wouldn't the forensics expert have a better chance of unearthing evidence if she could see what she was doing?

DAVE'S A DUD

FIFTH Gear presenter Vicki Butler-Henderson hilariously hoodwinked her own brother into believing that she was a bald-headed "gor blimey" bloke called Bill Stevens in **Gender Swap** (Five).

But attempts by David Dickinson to pass himself off as Greek-born socialite Maria Vanderbilt stalled the moment he opened his mouth.

It was his enormous ego that blew his cover. He couldn't resist dropping the name of, er, David Dickinson into conversations with people he tried to fool.

And he also kept slipping into the voice of, um, David Dickinson.

His pained expression with stylist Michael Shapel suggested it wouldn't be long before he said something like: "I've got nothing against gays, but..."

Then we saw him telling his video diary: "I'm not homophobic, but...he was a bit too much of a big girl for me."

Michael flounced off the show. A shame, because I was beginning to enjoy **Queer Eye For The Orange Guy**.

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SQUARE BASHIN'

YET another sour and hate-filled week in **EastEnders**, where the only light relief was provided by Pauline's puppy Betty doing a whoopsie on the carpet in the Queen Vic,

Spencer giving Jane a written warning over the phone, and the director finally abandoning all attempts to film Kat from the neck up - and hiding her in the bathroom.

Alfie pleaded with her

through the door: "All I wanted to do was get close to you and bury myself..."

This would have been a) physically impossible and b) rather unwise, from a medical point of view.

SOAPER STAR

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STEPH IN A CHASE TO DEATH

Emmerdale cliff-hanger

WICKED Emmerdale schemer Stephanie Stokes looks set for a grisly Thelma And Louise style farewell.

Her cruel bid to rip off her dear old dad Alan Turner will be exposed.

She will be seen racing towards a cliff edge with her father in the car as police and villagers close in.

And it will look like she's preparing to take herself and her pa to a certain death.

The scenes echo the acclaimed 1991 movie Thelma And Louise, in which two women go on the run after killing a rapist and deliberately take their car over a cliff edge in a gripping finale.

But in the dramatic Emmerdale scenes, Steph (right) stops the car and gets out, leaving Alan safe.

Burglary

And she walks towards the cliff edge to end it all.

A series insider confirmed last night: "We're not spoiling the storyline by saying what happens to Stephanie."

"Viewers will just have to tune in to find out. It's one of our most gripping storylines for years."

Steph (Lorraine Chase) will be exposed by village delinquent Daz Hopwood.

The half-brother of farmer Andy Sugden will be casing the B&B for a burglary when he sees Steph leave the building.

Daz (Luke Tittensor) breaks in to find roly-poly Alan (Richard Thorp) in a terri-

by EMILY ROSE

ble state. The soap mole revealed: "Alan will plead with Daz to help him and he'll tell the shocked lad that Steph has harmed his girlfriend Shelly and has been drugging him."

But in nail-biting scenes that follow, viewers will see Steph force her dad to sign over his business and all his possessions to her - because he won't need anything "where he's going".

Then she will make her final preparations to kill him.

Plotting

But young Daz confronts her in the cafe and accuses her of plotting to murder her doped-up pa.

Vicar Ashley Thomas and vet's wife Emily witness the bust-up and offer to mediate by visiting Alan. But Steph refuses to give them access.

Daz takes matters into his own hands by attempting to rescue Alan. But Steph catches him and flings him in the cellar.

But he escapes - and this time Alan's friends will decide to act.

The soap source revealed: "Daz will rush to Emily for help and as he blurs out his latest story, they'll see Steph manhandle a frail Alan into her car."

"Within minutes Paddy and Emily Kirk along with young Daz are pursuing Steph down the country lanes - and the police are not far behind them."

Square deal for Conley



GANGSTER ROLE: Conley

FUNNYMAN Brian Conley is being lined up for a role in EastEnders - to save his career like pal Shane Richie.

Conley is set to make a dramatic entrance as a Cockney gangster if BBC bosses get their way.

Shane has helped to boost the show's flagging ratings - and now EastEnders chiefs think Conley could do the same.

And just like Richie, 43-year-old Conley needs the new role to kick-start his flagging career.

Richie's role as ex-con Alfie Moon has propelled him from the entertainment graveyard to a national treasure in just three years.

The 40-year-old former Redcoat's

by KATIE BEGLEY

career was in such a state he had to sell his £2million home to pay off debts.

But since playing Alfie he won the best actor gong at last year's National TV Awards.

Now under-fire EastEnders bosses hope all singing, all dancing, Conley can pull off another ratings revival.

Conley entertained the nation in hit shows like The Grimleys and Time After Time and won awards for his West End musical Jolson.

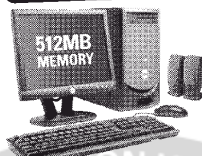
But he hasn't been seen on telly since his ITV gameshow Judgement Day, a ratings flop, was axed last summer.

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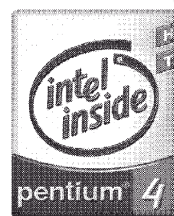
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Bet sees Syd's bits

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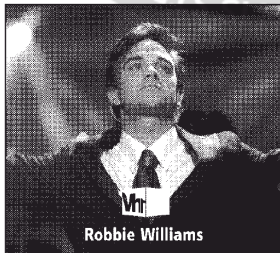
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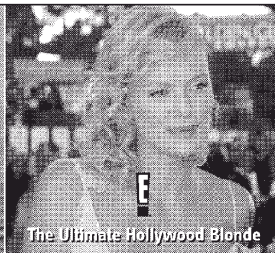
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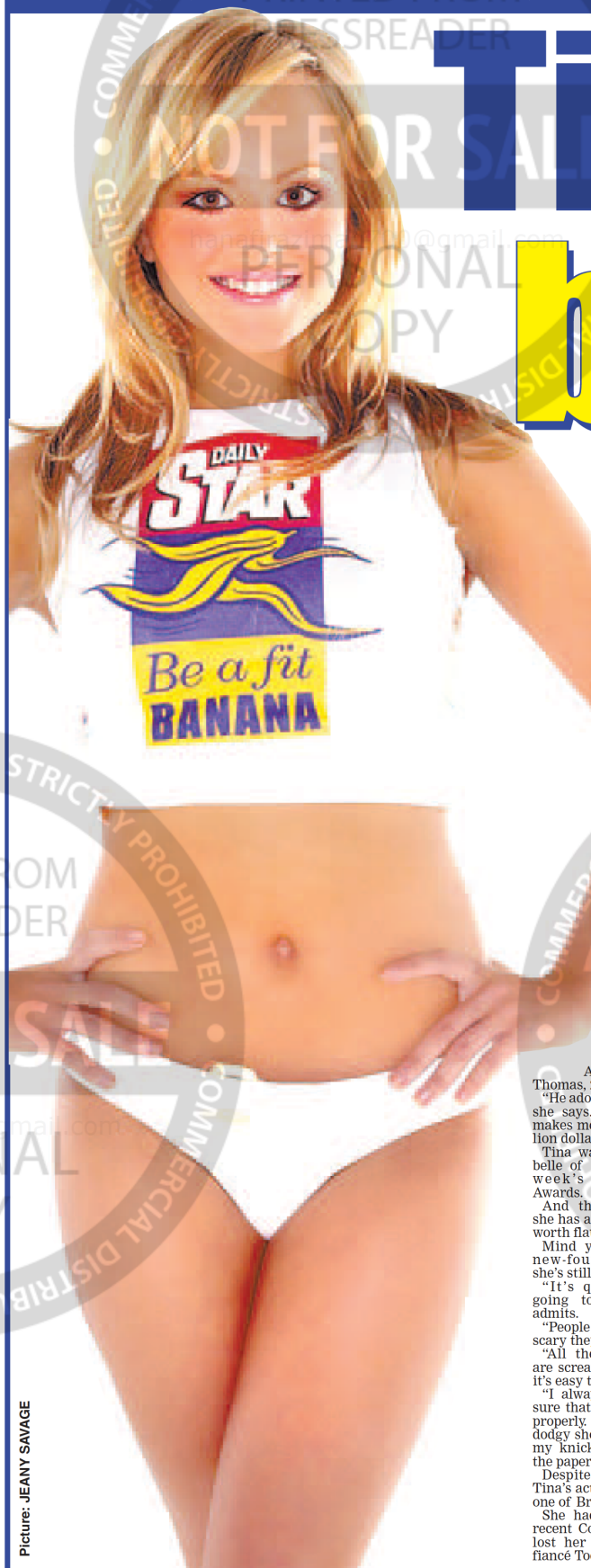
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